



Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am and 6 pm, Thursday, January 4, 2018

Pioneer Seeds Meeting Room, 240 W. US Highway 24, Downs, KS

Members in Attendance at 10 am meeting:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig (Chair)	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
James (JP) Metzler (Vice)	Minneapolis, KS	Industry and Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	Yes
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Stacey Forshee	Ottawa County, KS	At Large Public	2019	No
Keith Houghton	Tipton, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2019	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2021	Yes
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2019	Yes
Scott Ross	Stockton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance at 10 am meeting:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Kelly Stewart	KDA/DWR	Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Keli Habiger	NCCED	Steve Frost	KDA/DOC
Dan Wells	KDHE	Terri Nuzum	MC Con. Dist.
Lynn Davignon	KDWPT	Alexandra Davis	KWO
Mike Nyhoff	KDWPT	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Pete Gile	KBID		

Members in Attendance at 6 pm meeting:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Donald Hellwig (Chair)	Solomon, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
James (JP) Metzler (Vice)	Minneapolis, KS	Industry and Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Mike Brzon	Courtland, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
John Cockerham	Osborne, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Raymond Debey	Cawker City, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Timothy Driggs	Phillipsburg, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Stacey Forshee	Ottawa County, KS	At Large Public	2019	No
Keith Houghton	Tipton, KS	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2019	No
Terry Nelson	Phillips County, KS	Irrigation West	2021	Yes
David Pfizenmaier	Clay Center, KS	At Large Public	2021	No
Arnold Ross	Webber, KS	Irrigation East	2019	No
Scott Ross	Stockton, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No

Membership: Donald Hellwig (Chair), Solomon, KS; Mike Brzon, Courtland, KS; John Cockerham, Osborne, KS; Raymond Debey, Cawker City, KS; Timothy Driggs, Phillipsburg, KS; Stacey Forshee, Ottawa County, KS; Keith Houghton, Tipton, KS; James (JP) Metzler, Minneapolis, KS; Terry Nelson, Phillips County, KS; David Pfizenmaier, Clay Center, KS; Arnold Ross, Webber, KS; Scott Ross, Stockton, KS
KWO Planner: Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-296-3185; kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

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Others in Attendance at 6 pm meeting:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Kelly Stewart	KDA/DWR	Jason Walker	KDA
Evan Joy	Downs, KS	Steve Frost	KDA/DOC
Jan Van Donge	Downs, KS	Larry Kendig	Osborne, KS
Justin Towery	Downs, KS	Alexandra Davis	KWO
Mike Nyhoff	KDWPT	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Pete Gile	KBID		

- Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman, Donald Hellwig called the meetings to order and Tj had the individuals present provide self-introductions and explain what they expected to get out of the meeting.
- Solomon-Republican Goals & Action Plan:** Don, RAC Chair, gave a short presentation on the Goals and Action Plan of the RAC and some of the accomplishments – collaborative effort to get a new contract in place on Norton Reservoir storage, economic study on Norton Reservoir by the Docking institute and Kansas Bostwick Irrigation Districts (KBIDs) work. Don also pointed where the region needed some help, especially with conducting the bathymetric surveys.
- Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID) Projects:** Pete Gile, Superintendent of KBID, walked through a presentation on where the district lays in relation to Harlan County Dam, the Guide Rock Diversion Dam and Lovewell Dam. He gave a little history about how the district began with a major flood on the Republican river in 1935, passing of the 1944 flood control act by the Congress and finally with KBID being incorporated in 1948 who holds water right #385 on the Republican River. The goal of the district is to eliminate 19.31 miles of open canal over the next 3-5 years with the settlement fund paying for materials, KBID providing the labor and Equipment along with grants provided by the Bureau of Reclamation, WaterSMART. The 33.0 lateral project was completed in 2017 and the 32.1 lateral replacement is underway and expected to be completed prior to the call for water this summer.
- Update on the Almena Irrigation District Contract & Community Involvement:** Keli Habiger, who had worked for the Norton City/County Economic Development and Terry Nelson, RAC member teamed up to deliver a message on how community involvement and the new contract became a reality. They gave a little background on the previous agreements that had been in place and how they worked. The importance of a stable water level to the community and the economic study that the Docking Institute in working on will provide some answers. Fund raising was a huge part of this with a small community has to generate \$50,000/year for their portion of the contract and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism providing the other portion of the \$100,000 annual payment. Keli thought the biggest hurdle for the group is education of locals on the necessity of the contract and contributions to keep the contract in force.
- Update on Area Reservoirs:** Lynn Davignon, Regional Fisheries Supervisor KDWPT, gave a presentation on how important water is to the fisheries in Sebelius, Webster, Kirwin, Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs. The Sebelius fishery is tops in state for wipers >12” and spotted bass >11” and rated #2 for saugeye>14”, black crappie >8” and largemouth bass >12”. Webster is above conservation pool and hopefully continues to rise until irrigation releases are made. The fishery has the #1 bluegill density and #3 for black crappie density. Kirwin is nearing conservation pool as well and the fishery will respond in the next couple of years providing anglers a good opportunity to harvest some nice fish. In response to that a new fish cleaning station has been installed in a better location for fishermen. Glen Elder is currently slightly below pool however the reservoir continues to provide good fishing, through trout

stockings, youth fishing derby, habit improvement and removal of rough fish. Lovewell is also providing good fishing opportunities for white crappie and a maturing trophy blue catfish fishery.

6. **Update on Area Public Lands:** Mike Nyhoff, Regional Public Lands Supervisor KDWPT, started his presentation with reference to Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) and the good they are doing for our youth. Mike went on to explain the planned purposes of the reservoirs and how more or less water impacts them. As the reservoir elevations increase there is a loss of terrestrial habitat however more area for waterfowl is generated. The diversity of habitat provides for a diversity of wildlife. Mike went on to explain that from surveys they have conducted that 60% hunters on opening day are from Kansas and of that 60 %, 80% come from the Topeka and Kansas City area. He also explained the structure of the agency and that they receive little or no state general fund (tax) monies.

7. **Update on Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB's):** Jennifer Nichols, KDHE from Salina, had a short PPT ready to deliver however it was very similar to the one Dan Wells had presented in October and in the interest of time she offered to answer any questions. There were none. In her presentation it is explained what algae were: simple, nonflowering plants that lack true stems, roots leaves and vascular tissue – base to the aquatic food chain. Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria known as Cyanobacteria and are found in 88% of lakes. Three things that often cause Blue-greens are: nutrients (phosphorus), temperature (high), and water column stability (float). The blooms when excessive pose risks for human, pets, livestock and wildlife. Toxins created by the bacteria have no known antidotes. The three most common Blue-green algae in Kansas are *Microcystis* spp., *Anabaena* spp., *Cylindrospermopsis*, and *Aphanizomenon*. Collecting a glass jar of the algae and refrigerating it for a day will let you know if you have Blue-green algae or not, they float. Dan talked about possible treatments and expenses for those treatments, keeping nutrients in place is the best solution. The reservoirs that were impacted in our region were; Webster, Kirwin and Sebelius. He ran through the Watch, Warning and Closure levels for water bodies and talked about the local lakes and how they change from week to week. There were several questions ranging from economic impact at Milford Reservoir to the treatment of water for public use.

8. **Update on Programs in Region that affect water quality/quantity:** Steve Frost, KDA-DOC, presented a PPT on the role of the DOC. They moved to Manhattan about 3 years ago and he invited us all to stop by and visit. Budget shortages over the last several years have impacted their services with the State Water Plan being shorted so goes their budget. The budget shortage has led their agency to prioritize, #1 is Aid to Conservation Districts. Steve went on to talk about some region specific problems and programs that Kansas is using like the WTAP program that retires water rights. He went to talk about the Waconda watershed and that from FY 2013 thru FY 2017 DOC has spent \$373,161.33 on different programs. The soil health program is big and there are some funds available to put on educational workshops or field days.

9. **Education piece of the Vision:** Jason Walker, KDA, gave a short presentation on what has been done so far. He had a couple of handouts and said they will be meeting with the marketing firm that has been hired to assist in pushing this item towards completion. There were several questions related to how this would work and what the marketing agency is producing and Jason said they'll know more after an early February meeting.

10. **State of the Resource Document:** Tj, KWO, had a handout of the last couple pages of the document, basically the needs section. He ran down through the document and asked for input on this section. Mike wanted to make sure those irrigators between the state border and KBID weren't overlooked in their need for irrigation water.

11. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: January 23-24, 2018, Topeka, KS.
- b. Solomon-Republican RAC: Doodle Poll (early April?)